

VIRTUAL SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

January 12 and 15 2022



"The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire...The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

~ Psalm 29:7-9 (NRSV)



"Burning of the Houses of Parliament," Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1775-1851, is a depiction of the Great Fire of 1834. This image of fire as a powerful and consuming force is symbolic of the way in which the voice of the Lord is described in Psalm 29.

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“AWESOME GOD”

MULLINS

**Our God is an awesome God,
[God] reigns from heaven above
With wisdom pow'r and love,
Our God is an awesome God.**

GREETING

PRESIDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

In God's temple all say, “Glory!”

Glory!

Glory thunders.

Waters roar.

**Cedars break
and oaks whirl.**

Let us worship the holy splendor
of God's voice.

OPENING HYMN

“ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”

(vs. 1-2)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,

O praise ye! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!

O praise ye! O praise ye!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
by which all creatures ye sustain,

O praise ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise ye! O praise ye!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Forgive us, O God, when we limit you –

When we remake you in our image,

When we claim our causes as your own,

When we box you in, and explain you away,

And in our attempts at understanding, whittle away all mystery.

**Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us:
Awaken us to your blinding glory,
Confound us by your love,
Shower us with grace so that we will be made new,
Recreated in your image,
Grateful for all that we cannot know.
In the name of Christ, who brought us closer to you, we pray. Amen.**

We pause for a few moments of silent confession.

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Let us go out into the world as people made new by God.
Alleluia! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

READER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Peace be with you!
And also with you!
Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“HOW IS IT I CAN LOVE YOU”

SYMEON THE NEW THEOLOGIAN IMG

(as interpreted by Daniel Ladinsky)

The poem explores the surprise and awe of this mystical paradox: The Divine is both intimate and all-encompassing; within, yet everywhere.

How is it I can love You within me,
yet see You from afar?
How is it I embrace You within myself,
yet see You spread across the heavens?
You know.
You alone.
You, who made this mystery,
You who shine
like the sun in my breast,
You who shine
in my material heart, immaterially.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 29

NRSV

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

DR. RIDDICK WEBER

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

In the darkness before creation, you made all that lives and breathes.

In the darkness of Mary's womb, you formed Jesus, bringer of light.

In the darkness of our world your spirit sustains us.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Under the cover of darkness, Magi followed the star to the Christ-child.

We come from the East and we come from the West,

following you on our different roads,

following the same star to the same place.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In the stillness of the dark,
we pray for all who need God’s presence in a special way—
people who cannot find work, who cannot pay their bills,
who have no place to live, people who are discouraged and hopeless,
people who have become cynical and bitter.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

We live in this world in our bodies, we rejoice in life and breath,
yet when sickness or pain cripples us,
we lose our bearings, we feel lost and bewildered.
We need your presence to keep us safe.
Be with those who are sick.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Thank you for moments of inspiration, for moments of clear vision
where we see who we are and who we are meant to be,
where we see where we are, and where you want us to go.
Give us courage to take the journey that you call us to,
and give us strength on the road.

O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Your presence sustains us, help us to go from worship this morning,
having seen your face, having done homage to your goodness,
**We are confident in the work you are doing in us and through us,
for your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING (REPRISE)”

INSTRUMENTAL

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

God we are grateful for your presence around us and within
us. Thank you for making your presence known to us in this and so many
other ways. May we be empowered to follow you in the ways of grace and
truth. Amen.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE YOU”

(vs. 1 & 4)

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“JOYFUL, JOYFUL”

Cover Art: Turner, J. M. W. (Joseph Mallord William), 1775-1851. The Burning of the Houses of Parliament, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54219> [retrieved July 1, 2021]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Joseph_Mallord_William_Turner_012.jpg. [retrieved June 29, 2021.]

Centering Song: Awesome God, by Rich Mullins. African American Heritage Hymnal #126

Call to Worship: <https://fairstreetreformedchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Morning-Worship-for-January-3-2021.pdf>

Words of Assurance: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/> [retrieved January 2, 2022.]

Poem: Granger, Ivan. The Longing In Between: Sacred Poetry from Around the World (A Poetry Chaikhana Anthology) (pp. 108-109). Poetry Chaikhana. Kindle Edition.

Prayers of the Community: <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/church-year-epiphany/>

Music: All music reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-707825.

***The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

Mwat Aseḏeh, Nolan Benner, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke, Equilla Curry, Liz Fulmer, Patty Hall,
Cam Richesson, Stephanie Oelrich, Rev. Scott Siciiano, Beth Taylor, Rev. Kellie Turner,
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.
To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.
To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*